



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:
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Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Eric Walls

GARDEN CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

A 48-year-old Garden City, Michigan man, who sexually abused and filmed two of his relatives and another young female as the subject of child pornography production, pleaded guilty in federal court today, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced. Joining in the announcement was William Callahan, Special Agent-In-Charge of the United States Secret Service in Detroit.

Eric Walls pleaded guilty to one count of Production of Child Pornography before United States District Judge Stephen J. Murphy, III, in Detroit, Michigan.

The information presented to the Court at the time of the plea established that between 2000 and 2007, the defendant engaged in a series of sexual assaults on three, young girls; two of whom were his relatives. At the time of the execution of the search warrant, law enforcement located electronic files and digital evidence cataloging a detailed photographic chronology of abuse against these three victims. A warrant executed at Mr. Walls' home revealed a collection of commercial and homemade child pornography in excess of one million images.

Production of Child Pornography is punishable by a statutorily-mandated minimum sentence of 15 years, and a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment. The plea agreement provided for a

sentence of a fixed term of 30 years. The statute carries a fine of up to \$250,000 dollars. Sentencing is scheduled for April 16, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

U.S. Attorney McQuade noted that this prosecution is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims.

In particular, U.S. Attorney McQuade praised the efforts of the United States Secret Service, the Garden City Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department for their efforts in this investigation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys John N. O'Brien, II, and Eaton Brown.